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natives in the foreground, while behind them, on the well-built highway, is a black man, naked to the waist, leaning on his bicycle. We are introduced to the new industries which the whites have taught to the people, such as lumber and brick manufacture. Another plate shows the interior of the Cathedral of St. Paul at Mengo, which holds 3,000 persons, and in whose construction 750,000 brick were used. Times are changing in Africa, and no book illustrates the fact better than this volume.

Mr. Lloyd founded the mission in the province of Bunyoro, which, not many years ago, was the scene of the inhuman practices of King Kabarega and the bands of robbers that he turned loose to prey upon his own people. Bunyoro's misery is now in the past, and the country is holding up its head again; for it has a Christian king, a son of Kabarega, who takes genuine delight in the most energetic efforts to uplift and help his countrymen. Medical missions and the civilizing influences of industrial education are accomplishing great things in Bunyoro.

The geographical interest of the book is chiefly centred in the description of the remote Acholi country, a little-known region north of the westerly bend of the Nile. After his mission in Bunyoro was well on its feet, Mr. Lloyd went among the Gang, as the people of Acholi call themselves, to begin his civilizing work in that virgin field. He impresses us with the fact that many of these barbarous tribes are learning of the helpfulness which the whites have brought to other African peoples and are eager to enjoy the same advantages. This was the case among the Gang, who were reputed to be dangerous and inhospitable; but they have opened wide their doors to the white teacher, and his work now flourishes among them.

Their country is a region of fine, open plains, above which rises, here and there, a majestic mountain. Tropical forests are scattered over the plains; and though the heat is intense in the lowlands bordering the Nile, the climate of the eastern uplands is healthful to Europeans. In Mr. Lloyd's account of these formerly mistrusted barbarians, he emphasizes the high average morality among them.

His description of the journey down the Nile is the first detailed account we have seen of the conditions of travel there, now that steamers make regular trips between Khartum and Gondokoro. The book is one of the best works on the regions of which it treats, and it completely illuminates the present conditions there.

Highways and Byways of the Mississippi Valley. By Clifton Johnson. xiii and 287 pp. and 63 illustrations. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1906. (Price, \$2.)

Mr. Johnson followed the river from New Orleans to near its source, and, in his desire to avoid aspects with which all are familiar, he chiefly haunted the byways, travelling on the country roads, living among the people, and studying their lives and toil. His literary material deals with the unhackneyed and unconventional. He has garnered the quaint, the characteristic, and the little known, and tells much of his story in the monologue and the dialect of his informants. As his narrative abounds with anecdote, and his descriptions are clean-cut and photographic, his work is both entertaining and edifying. He is a keen observer, and has an eye even for the little things that reveal character and conditions.

Mr. Johnson is certainly one of the first authors to give a vivid description of the swamp region of the lower Mississippi, where he made the acquaintance of moss-pickers, and was rewarded for his hardships with much novel material for his book. The reader is certain to become interested in Jake, an alligator hunter whose energies are given to catching little alligators to be shipped to menageries, or to any one who

delights in that kind of a pet. Jake is photographed in the act of pulling a young alligator out of his hole by the snout. The photographs are unusually good, and most of them illustrate phases of life among the lowly. Mr. Johnson has written a considerable number of books, but none of them contains more new information of interest to readers than this volume.

Algiers. By **M. Elizabeth Crouse.** Illustrated by Adelaide B. Hyde. xii and 244 pp., 24 illustrations, and Index. James Pott & Company, New York, 1906. (Price, \$2.)

The author lived five months in Algiers taking notes for this volume. She has also been in Tunis, has spent a winter in Egypt, and it seems to her that in neither of these countries "does the Oriental life compare with that in Algeria, both for grace and beauty." Her book is filled with vivid pen-pictures of the monuments the Deyls left behind them, and of the lives of the people among whom Western civilization has been introduced by the French. She sees the spirit of the East still alive and poetic beauty and charm still pervading the old Moorish villas, gardens, and mosques; and with sympathy and enthusiasm she tells the story of this city where the East and the West have met, threads the narrow passages of the old town to study the monuments of what has been, and mingles the history and the romance of the old palaces in giving her impressions of them.

We usually hear more of Algiers than of Tunis, and many persons imagine that the former city is materially more important. The fact is that Tunis is nearly three times as populous as Algiers, and the author makes some interesting comparisons between them:

Tunis is not nearly so beautiful as Algiers, for it is flat upon the sand and lacks the stately arches of the arcades and of the ramparts which conceal the steep cliffs at the foot of the latter city. . . . The whole difference between Tunis and Algiers might be summed up as follows: In Algiers the Arab life is buried, the city belongs to the French, and the French are destroying the Oriental to build a modern Western town. In Tunis the Arab life goes on in all its vigour, protected, not suppressed by the French, who may not destroy anything. Neither are there the oppressive taxes and heavy duties of Algiers. It is therefore much more prosperous and appears so even in the French settlement. And yet the Algerian Moorish life in passing seems to be most beautiful.

Ruin has well been called "the charm beyond perfection." It is the freeing of the spirit. And that moment while the spirit lingers is most exquisite of all. It is that period in Algeria now. The French conquest, while destroying and covering much, has caused the Oriental life to reveal its most spiritual loveliness.

The book is permeated with sympathetic interest and imagination. It was well worth writing. Some of its half-tone illustrations are especially charming and characteristic.

Handbook of Polar Discoveries. By **A. W. Greely**, Major-General U. S. Army. (Third Edition, Revised and Enlarged.) iv and 325 pp., Portrait, 12 Maps, and Index. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1906. (Price, \$1.50.)

General Greely's handbook has grown from 257 pp. in the first edition, ten years ago, to 325 pp. It is now a polar instead of merely an Arctic manual, for it summarizes Antarctic discovery from the earliest days to Charcot's expedition of 1903. The important work of the past decade in the Arctic domain has also added a considerable number of pages. No handbooks on exploration are likely to be so useful in the coming years as those relating to the polar regions, for these zones now offer the largest opportunities for pioneer research; and this manual, covering the whole field of polar work, and written with authority, is very conveniently arranged for reference. It gives the larger facts relating to the whole field of polar endeavour, and the copious